10.

LETTERS,

AND OTHER

Curious Pieces,

Relating to the

PRESENT STATE

OF

EUROPE.

With Allowance.

LONDON:

Printed for *Jonathan Edwin*, at the Sign of the Three Roses in *Ludgate-street*. 1672.

TO THE READER.

THE great Noiſe of making Leagues, and the Preparations for War on all hands, cannot but raiſe an univerſal Expectation of many extraordinary Events. Time will declare to all the Succeſs of Battels and Sieges, and what States have united their Intereſts: But there are none but intelligent Perſons, and thoſe that are curious to obſerve the firſt ſeeds of War, who can know the Reaſons that bind Princes together, and the ſecret Springs that ſet all on work. Perhaps this little Collection may afford thoſe ſome Light. I make it not my buſineſs to prepoſſeſs the Reader in favour of either Party, I leave him entire Liberty to judge of the Reaſons both of the one and the other, and to declare for that Side ſhall pleaſe him moſt. Nay I am willing that he

he read this Collection as he would a Copy of Verſes or a Romance, as long only as he ſhall find it pleaſant. I had rather he ſhould divert himſelf with it, than exerciſe his Judgment thereon: I have no other intereſt than to ſhew the deſire I have to contribute ſomething to the Satisfaction and Inſtruction of the World. Whatever Opinion the Reader ſhall have of theſe Papers, I ſhall be ſatisfied therewith, provided only he does me the right to believe, that I had no other Intention in the Publiſhing of them, than to make him paſs ſome time away to his Satisfaction.

THE

THE MEMORIAL OF THE Baron de l' Iſola, AND Monſieur de Crampricht, TO THE STATES-GENERAL.

THE Baron *de l' Iſola*, Envoy Extraordinary, and Plenipotentiary of his Imperial Majeſty, and Chevalier *Crampricht*, Miniſter and Plenipotentiary of his ſaid Majeſty, are obliged by expreſs Order of their Maſter, to preſent to your Lordſhips, That his Imperial Majeſty chiefly deſigning to confirm the Peace of *Europe* as much as in him lies, and particularly the keeping a good Correſpondence betwixt the Empire and this State; and having been requeſted earneſtly by his Electoral Highneſs of *Cologne* to employ his intereſt with your Lordſhips, that you would grant him the Satisfaction which he has ſo long deſired concerning the Reſtitution of *Rhinberg*, his ſaid Highneſs thinking himſelf obliged by the Principles of Honour and Con-

cenee, by all poſſible means to ſollicit the Reſtitution of it, it being an inſeparable Member of his Archbiſhoprick. Upon which his Imperial Majeſty (having made a ſerious reflection, and ſeeing evidently the great Advantages which may reſult to the Publick, and in particular to your Lordſhips, by making an end of this Difference by an honeſt, ſure, and equitable Agreement) hath given Us Order to repreſent unto you the Importance thereof, and to offer you in it his Intereſt and Mediation, and to employ all our care and diligence to bring it to an happy iſſue. And his Imperial Majeſty doth the more willingly intereſt himſelf in this Affair, becauſe he hath been informed that his ſaid Electoral Highneſs hath offered and conſented to give you all the ſecurity you can deſire of his Union and good Neighbourhood with this State, (as it appears by an Inſtruction ſigned with his Hand, ſent to his Miniſters at the *Hague*, and communicated to us by his Orders, and alſo by Memorials preſented to your Lordſhips by his own Miniſters:) and for that purpoſe he is willing that the Fortification of the place be demoliſht, upon which condition he is diſpoſed with his Chapters to enter into a League Defenſive with this State for their reciprocal and mutual ſecurity; by the ſame way alſo the Differences betwixt his ſaid Electoral Highneſs and the City of *Cologne* may be amicably compoſed, and ſo your Confines ſecured by the Union and good Correſpondence of ſo conſiderable a Prince. All theſe Reaſons, and many other which your Lordſhips Prudence diſcern, have made his Imperial Majeſty judge that his interpoſition in an Affair ſo equally advantageous to both Parties, cannot be diſagreeable to your Lordſhips: And conſidering the Good that may come from doing thus, and the Ills that may be avoided by it, your Lordſhips will have ſo much reſpect to the ſincere Repreſentations which we have Order to make you upon this Subject, from ſo powerful a Monarch, and ſo great a Friend to this State, as to come to a favourable Reſolution therein. And we doubt not but on the part of his Electoral Highneſs, (he being a Prince ſo wiſe and ſo deſirous of Peace) we ſhall find all neceſſary Diſpoſitions to conclude this Negotiation happily, if your Lordſhips will pleaſe to let us know your ſentiments thereon, which will be very welcome to his Imperial Majeſty and the whole Empire, if they are ſuch as we expect from your great Prudence.

The Letter of the Baron de l'Iſola, *and* Monſieur Crampricht, *to His* Electoral Highneſs *of* Cologne.

MY LORD,

WE take the liberty to write theſe Lines to your moſt Serene Highneſs, to whom with an entire ſubmiſſion we renew the Offer of our moſt humble Services. Be pleaſed to know, that we having lately received Orders from his Imperial Majeſty our Maſter, (upon inſtances made to him by your moſt Serene Highneſs) to Negotiate in his Name with the States of the United Provinces, for the Reſtitution of the Town of *Rhinberg* upon the Conditions your Highneſs had made them by your Miniſters: That we may anſwer what is required of us, and bring this Affair to a good end, we believed we ought, Firſt, to ſound and diſpoſe their Minds, before we ſhould openly engage the Name and Authority of our Maſter. It being difficult on a ſuddain to diſcover the Intentions of a Commonwealth, compoſed of ſo many Heads of Provinces and Cities of different Opinions, we have been neceſſitated to employ ſome time, in preparing and making them ſuſceptible of our Impreſſions, before we could declare our Orders, or make any publick Overtures. But now finding that we have got ground by our particular cares, and having wrought in them Diſpoſitions from whence we may promiſe our ſelves good ſucceſs in our Endeavours, we judge it a fit time to begin the Negotiation, and to proceed openly to the Execution of our Orders.

We have therefore formed a Memorial, the Copy whereof is herewithal ſent, which we will accompany with our moſt earneſt Endeavours, and the moſt efficacious means to accompliſh it. We ſhall eſteem our ſelves very happy if we can profitably ſerve your Highneſs in this thing, and procure you that ſatisfaction, by peaceable ways, and conformable to your great Vertue, which you cannot ſeek by other means but at your own and your Subjects diſquiet.

But as we neither will, or ought to do any thing therein without the direction and conſent of your Highneſs, we have believed it our duty, firſt to communicate the ſaid Memorial to you, which is all founded upon the Declaration which the Miniſters of

of your Highneſs have made here in our behalf, and which is the true foundation upon which this Affair muſt be Treated on and Concluded.

We moſt humbly beg your Highneſs to have the goodneſs to let us know your intentions thereupon, that we may more ſolidly execute thoſe of our Maſters, and with more aſſurance for the ſervice of your Highneſs, which we are very intent upon. We remain with a profound reſpect, *&c.*

From the Hague, *Nov.* 26. 1671.

The Anſwer of His Electoral Highneſs of Cologne, *to the Baron* de l'Iſola, *and Chevalier* Crampricht.

GENTLEMEN,

YOurs of the 26. of *November* was ſent to me by the Marquiſs *de Grana*, by the Contents whereof I perceive that many months ſince his Imperial Majeſty hath given you Orders to Negotiate in his Name with the States of the United Provinces, for the Reſtitution of the Town of *Rhinberg* upon Conditions which I had offered to them. But believing that you ought not openly to engage the Name and Authority of the Emperour your Maſter, before you could perceive ſome probabilities of the good ſucceſs of your Negotiation, you have not hitherto acted openly. But that now finding by your particular cares, that you have wrought in them Diſpoſitions, which promiſe you an happy event of your Endeavours, you judge it a fit time to begin the Negotiation, and proceed to the publickly execution of your Orders.

For that intent you have made a Memorial, which you will accompany with your moſt earneſt Endeavours, and the moſt efficacious means to accompliſh: That by peaceable ways, and conformable to my Inclination, I may have that ſatisfaction, which I cannot ſeek by other means but with my own and my Subjects diſquiet.

But as you neither will, nor ought to do any thing therein without my direction and conſent, you believed it your duty to Communicate the ſaid Memorial to me, which is all founded upon the Declarations which my Miniſters at the *Hague* have made in my behalf, and which is the true foundation upon which this Affair muſt be Treated on and Concluded.

To

To which I Anſwer you.

Gentlemen, I think I need not make uſe of many words to perſwade you that his Imperial Majeſty cannot ſhew a more ſenſible mark of his favour and good-will towards me and my Archbiſhoprick, and for which I ſhall be more obliged to him, than to protect and aſſert, as he doth, (by the great weight of his Authority and Imperial Interpoſition with the States of the United Provinces) my good Right to the Town of *Rhinberg*. You cannot be ignorant with what care and application, and extraordinary patience I have continually purſued the Reſtitution of the ſaid Town, ſince God hath intruſted me with the Government of this Archbiſhoprick. You alſo know well, that notwithſtanding, all theſe Negotiations, and all the reiterated inſtances of his Imperial Majeſty of bleſſed Memory, and of the preſent Emperour, as alſo of the Empire in Body, and the conſiderable Offers which I have made to this Eſtate, have gained me no other advantage, but that of knowing, that the States of the ſaid Provinces acknowledge no other Right but their own profit and convenience. 'Tis for this reaſon that I ſhould be much obliged to you, if you could bring the States to uſe a little more conſideration and equity than they have hitherto done, towards a Prince their Neighbour, who hath always deſired to live with good Correſpondence with them, without making the Emperour promiſe for me, or engage me to perform any thing which may be more prejudicial to me and my Archbiſhoprick than the loſs not only of the Town of *Rhinberg*, but alſo of all its dependencies. But I pray you in the ſame time to conſider, that the Conjuncture of Times, and different Poſture of Affairs, may make the ſame Perſon offer ſuch Conditions in one time, which he would not accept in another. When I made the Propoſal of a Defenſive League betwixt the States and me, there was a profound Peace in all *Chriſtendom*; at preſent the great Levies of Souldiers every where made, give juſt cauſe to fear a rude and a dangerous War, and we know not upon whom it may fall. I will leave it to you to conſider, nay even to determine, if you or any body elſe in their wits, and not biaſſed, would counſel me in this Conjunction to Treat upon Conditions ſo hazardous to my Eſtate: In truth, 'twould be to purchaſe a thing too dear, which cannot juſtly be refuſed, even without any condition.

I thought it beſt to ſend you my Opinion with this freedom, to the end that you ſhould uſe ſuch prudence and circumſpection towards the States, as not to make his Imperial Majeſty undertake

for me, much leſs that you your ſelves ſhould engage for my performance of any thing, which I can never conſent to.

I hope in the mean time that the ſaid States will give me cauſe to continue alway, as I am ready to do, my living with them in the greateſt Correſpondence and Union that ſhall be poſſible for me; to which I deſire you to contribute what in you lies; as alſo that my Deputies of *Liege*, which ſhall perhaps be ſhortly followed by thoſe of this Archbiſhoprick, may receive from the ſaid States favourable Anſwers upon the buſineſs they are ſent about. I am, *&c.*

Another Letter from the Sieurs de l' Iſola *and* Crampricht, *to the* Elector *of* Cologne.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

WE have received, with the reſpect we ought to do, the Anſwer which your Electoral Highneſs was pleaſed to ſend us, dated the third of this month, to the Letter we gave our ſelves the Honour to write to you of the 26. of *November* paſt; and we thereupon had a Conference with ſome of the principal Miniſters of theſe States, as well to acquaint them with the Reaſons, upon which your Electoral Highneſs conceives your Self diſ-ingaged in the preſent Conjuncture of Affairs, from ſtanding to the Propoſals you had made to them, as to aſſure them of the fair Inclination which your Electoral Highneſs hath manifeſted towards them, of ſtill continuing to live with them in the beſt Correſpondence and Union you could poſſibly. Upon which account we think our ſelves obliged to ſignifie unto you, That they were much ſurprized to find, that, after the ſo ſolemn Declarations which had been made to them, on the part of your Electoral Highneſs, and which we have ſo often confirmed to them, on the behalf of his Imperial Majeſty, you have, all of a ſudden, changed your Reſolution; and that the more, in regard the League which you had of your own free will proffered to enter into with them, and which was to be the Groundwork of the Union which your Electoral Highneſs was deſirous there ſhould be between you and them,

them, being to be only Defenſive, and having no other deſign than that of mutual ſafety, could not, in reaſon, give any one a juſt occaſion of either offence or jealouſie.

They are alſo of a perſwaſion, that thoſe great Preparations of War, which your Electoral Highneſs is ſo juſtly apprehenſive of, and upon which only you ground the change of your Reſolution, was a Motive which ſhould rather have more forcibly induced you to engage into a ſtricter Union with your Neighbours, in order to the ſecuring of your Self, by a mutual aſſiſtance, from thoſe inevitable Inconveniences which the Paſſages and Quartering of Forces will occaſion in your Territories, and all the dreadful Conſequences which might be feared from a War ſo near you. As to the good Correſpondence whereof your Highneſs would put them into hopes for the future, they have entertained it with a more than ordinary eſteem, and with Aſſurances, on their ſide, of their obſervance and promoting of it with the greateſt care imaginable. And this is the account we can give your Electoral Highneſs of the diſcovery we have made of their Sentiments, it having not been in our power to carry things any farther, for want of a more ample ſubject. But whereas your Electoral Highneſs puts us in hope, that your Deputies of *Liege* will be here within a ſhort time, and that they will poſſibly be followed by others from the Archbiſhoprick of *Cologne*, we promiſe our ſelves, from the great Zeal of your Electoral Highneſs for the ſetlement of Peace, that the Inſtructions they ſhall bring, will open ſome way for us to diſpoſe of Affairs in order to a happy Accommodation. To which work we ſhall heartily contribute our utmoſt Endeavours and Induſtry, as well out of the particular Inclination we have to your Service, as on the ſcore of the perfect knowledge we have, how highly his Imperial Majeſty is concerned in whatever relates to the ſatisfaction of your Electoral Highneſs. We ſhall not here enter into the ſecret Reaſons which may have induced your Electoral Highneſs to change your firſt Reſolutions, upon the Overtures you had made to theſe States; but we conceive our ſelves obliged to repreſent unto you, That *Chriſtendom*, and particularly the Empire, are now full of Wiſhes for Peace; That they think it abſolutely neceſſary, in order to their ſecurity againſt the violent Attempts of the Common Enemy; That his Imperial Majeſty hath not any Intereſt or deſire more preſſing upon him, than that of a ſtrict obſervance thereof; And, in a word, That, at preſent, there is not any perſon in the World, who can contribute more than your Electoral Highneſs to the diverſion and diſpelling of that Cloud, which puts all *Europe* into an Alarm. We hope alſo, that your Highneſs will therein find the greater facility,

lity, in regard the States of the United Provinces are willing to condeſcend to ſuch reaſonable Terms, (as your Electoral Highneſs will find by the Copy of the Letter herewith ſent you, which they write to his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty) that we cannot forbear promiſing our ſelves, from the Juſtice of ſo great a Monarch, that he will not employ the utmoſt Remedies, againſt thoſe who voluntarily offer him all the Satisfaction he can juſtly deſire. We thereupon ground a ſolid aſſurance, that your Electoral Highneſs, finding Diſpoſitions ſo favourable, will, out of your own extraordinary Generoſity, cloſe with ſo fair an occaſion, to celebrate your Name by ſo Illuſtrious an Action; and that the Glory and Merit which you juſtly ought to expect from it, will be incomparably greater in your eſteem, than all the Advantages which might be propoſed to you in a Revolution. And with that, Wiſhing your Electoral Highneſs all Proſperity in the New Year now approaching, and a long Series of many others after it, we remain, *&c.*

From the Hague, *Dec.* 22. 1671.

The Anſwer of the Elector *of* Cologne, *to the Second Letter from the Sieurs* de l'Iſola *and* Crampricht.

MESSIEURS,

VEry much to my ſatisfaction have I received, with your Letter of the 22. of the laſt month, the Aſſurances you give me, on the behalf of the High and Mighty, the *States-General*, of their cheriſhing on their ſide, to the utmoſt of their power, the good Correſpondence, which I, for my part, deſire to hold with them. For though that hath paſt ſomewhat ſlightly for a thing of ſuch importance, and eſpecially at a time wherein ſo many Circumſtances might occaſion a fear of the contrary; yet am I ſo deſirous it ſhould be ſo in good earneſt, that I take it according to the very Letter, as you intimate to me, that they have promiſed you; and I ſhall be extreamly glad not to have ſo much as any occaſion to doubt of it for the future. I ſhall therefore make a greater reliance on what you write to me of it, than on the many Advertiſements which I have received from ſo many ſeveral parts, even from ſome perſons of whom you your ſelves would not have me entertain any diſtruſt, That the *States-General* cannot take it well that I ſhould be deſirous to ſtand Neuter, and that they would pretend to enforce me with them, if any other declared Hoſtility againſt them; That if I engaged not my ſelf to undertake

take the Obſtruction of their Paſſage, who were deſigned to march againſt their Provinces, I was to expect that they would bring Fire, Sword and Deſolation into my Territories; And that the great Rendezvous they make of the greateſt part of their Forces, and of all their Principal Officers upon my Frontiers, is already a Preparative for the execution of thoſe Menaces, and a real deſign to encroach upon my Eſtate. So that if I thereupon take any Precautions, it is only to aſſure my Subjects, who may be ſtartled at the marching, and vicinity of ſo great Forces, of the care I have of their Preſervation, and to perform what I am obliged to by Reaſon of State, and the Devoir incumbent on a Prince, without any deſire of giving any way a juſt occaſion of complaint to the *States-General*, or doing any thing againſt the good Intelligence which I deſire there may be between us. I think they ought to be ſatisfied as to that point, and that neither you nor they ſhould be ſurprized, if in this Conjuncture I am unwilling to proceed any farther, and to compleat the Defenſive League which I had heretofore propoſed to them. You know well enough, that Propoſals of that kind ſubſiſt only but during the time they are made on the one ſide, and that there may be ſome advantage made thereof on the other; that they ceaſe of his ſide who makes them, as ſoon as they are either denied or ſlighted by him to whom they were made; and that at certain times one may have ſome Reaſons to wiſh their taking effect, and ſoon after, other Motives inducing him not to have the ſame Inclination thereto; in regard either Party both in the making of them, and not hearkning to them, minds only his own intereſt, and the welfare of his own Affairs. Thus therefore, ſince there have been ſo many ſolemn Declarations made to the *States-General* on my behalf, of my being deſirous of that Defenſive League, and that you have ſo often confirmed the ſame to them on the behalf of his *Imperial Majeſty*, they might have made a better advantage of all thoſe diligent Applications we have made to them, and not have ſuffered the State of Affairs to change its face, and let ſlip the opportunity of accepting a proffer, which they now think had been advantageous to them. The reaſon they had not to hearken to it at that time, is the ſame I have, not to be over-forward now to conclude it. They were afraid, that the Obligation of Defending a State much weaker, and more expoſed of all ſides, than that of the *United Provinces* is, might involve them in ſome Affairs againſt the Intereſt of their Republick: in like manner, the Reports that are now ſpread up and down, of their having powerful Enemies ready to ſit on their Skirts, hinder me at the preſent from engaging my ſelf poſitively in their Defence, and to ſtand off, till I can ſee more clearly into that Cloud you tell me of, and am aſſured that I do not draw it over my own Country, while I am deſirous to divert it from thoſe of others. I am apt to believe, that you are particularly acquainted with the Deſigns and Intentions of the *States-General* of the *United Provinces*, ſo as not to be ignorant of their having made to ſeveral Princes of the Empire, to draw them into a Defenſive League with them, ſuch Offers as were much more advantageous than the doubtful and uncertain hope whereof you give me a glimpſe; That they might haply be kindly perſwaded to reſtore to me a Place which they detain from me, after they have Demoliſht it, if I would oblige my ſelf to a mutual Defence; that is to ſay, they might be content to give me a Place, which belongs to me, after they had reduced it to a Village, conditionally that I conſented to hazard all my Territories, to ſecure their Provinces. Many of thoſe Princes, to whom they have made Propoſitions, have abſolutely rejected them, and not any one would accept of them in the preſent Conjuncture of Affairs. I do not believe you your ſelves would adviſe me to be more daring in this particular, than any other hath been. The Situation of

my Territories, which you inſinuate as a reaſon likely to induce me to make a Conjunction of all my Intereſts with thoſe of the *Dutch*, is that which ought moſt to divert me from it. If their Provinces ſecured me againſt the Military Preparations which they think deſigned againſt them, and lay before my Country, whereas they are at a greater diſtance from it, I might accordingly engage my ſelf ſo far in their Defence, as I ſhould think my ſelf obliged to do by their Demeanour towards me to this preſent time; by the acknowledgments I ought to make of their kindneſs; by the aſſiſtances I might have received from them in times paſt, and what I might expect for the future, and by other circumſtances of that nature. But if the apprehenſion they have of the Preparations for War made in *France* be ſo great, that it ſomewhat more inclines them to do me ſome Juſtice, as to what they detain from me, then Reaſon, and the Equity of the thing it ſelf, or your Sollicitations, and the Authority of the Emperour, or yet all your Endeavours and Perſwaſions could hitherto do, I ought not ſo much to ſlight the ſame Preparations, as, meerly out of a frolick, to expoſe my own Subjects, upon any conſideration of kindneſs to my Neighbours, to whom I am not otherwiſe much obliged. As I am not conſcious to my ſelf of having offended any body, and that the love I have ever had for peace and quietneſs, cannot have created me any Enemies; ſo am I confident, that the Military Preparations which make ſo much noiſe, cannot be deſigned againſt me: and the *States-General* themſelves muſt needs be of that judgment too, ſince I find, that while they were reſolved to reſtore to me a Place which belongs to me, and which might be more advantageous than any other to ſecure and defend my Country, they would needs have it Demoliſht beforehand. Thus a Preparation for War, which certainly doth not concern me at all, can never be a good Motive for my more ſtrictly joining with them, who think themſelves threatned therewith. And if a State ſo powerful, and ſo ſtrongly fortified by Nature, and its own Situation, as alſo by Art and Labour, as that of the High and Mighty the *States-General* is, ſtands in fear of an Enemy ſo far at a diſtance from it; I do not believe, if they are juſt, they have any reaſon to imagine, that that very fear, which obliges them to ſeek the means to appeaſe him by their ſubmiſſions, ſhould ever the more incite me to run the hazard of offending him without any neceſſity, as being in Friendſhip and Alliance with him, and to be the occaſion of his falling upon my own Country, which the High and Mighty the *States-General* know well enough to lie open, and Unfortified of all ſides. And this certainly is a thing I could never perſwade my Chapters and my People to believe; and I do not find any one among them who is of Opinion, That I ought rather to ſtop the Current of the War upon my ſelf and my own Subjects, than ſuffer it to make its further progreſs into *Holland*, or elſewhere. As then I ſee it is in this point alone that the High and Mighty the *States-General* make all the Satisfaction I can give them to conſiſt, and that you intimate to me, that they pretend that to be the Foundation of the Union, which I deſire with them, ſo it would not be to any purpoſe to ſend Deputies to them from *Liege* and the Archbiſhoprick of *Cologne*; and you will judge it would be a fruitleſs charge and trouble, ſince they would never be able to come to any Agreement thereupon; and that it would be a much harder matter to perſwade my States, to take upon them the principal part of a danger, which doth not concern them, than for the High and Mighty States to run it themſelves. But I hope, as both you and they do, that ſome Expedient of Accommodation will be found out, and that the *Moſt Chriſtian King* will in ſome meaſure be moved with their Submiſſions and Offers. As we expect within a ſhort time to be fully informed as to that particular, ſo I may, till then, ſuſpend my Reſolution and

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final Anſwer. For I do not abſolutely deny the making of a Defenſive League with the High and Mighty the *States-General*: but as I know they will never entertain any thoughts of making it, but while they ſhall think it advantageous for themſelves; ſo ſhould not I be willing to conclude it, till I am ſatisfied that it will not prove the occaſion of my own ruine. Thus, when Affairs a little ſhall be cleared up, and that the High and Mighty the *States-General* and my Self be reduced to the ſame Terms, of either being void of all fear, or engaged in the ſame occaſions of it, our common Concerns will eaſily incline us to join together in a Defenſive League, and we ſhall concur at the ſame time, in deſiring the ſame thing. Mean time, I ſhall take it kindly if you ſtill keep them in the good Diſpoſitions, wherein you intimate to me that you think they are now, and ſo to carry on things, as that, if they are at preſent content to reſtore *Rhinberg* to me though ruined, they may continue that good will, imperfect as it is, till ſuch time as I may be able to make advantage of it, with leſs hazard to my Subjects; provided you give me a clear and punctual account of their real Intentions upon that ſubject, in ſtead whereof I find that hitherto you ſpeak only to me of your own private Reflections, and that too with ſo much diſtruſt and uncertainty, that I know not what Conjecture to make thereof. Moreover, it ſhould be the moſt earneſt of my wiſhes, that all *Chriſtendom* were in peace, and would unite all its Forces againſt the Common Enemy. Nor have I thought it enough to make fervent Vows and continual Prayers for that, when it was in my power to contribute any thing thereto by my Actions: nay, I have ſacrificed my own Intereſts, abandoned my Rights, left my Fortified Places in the hands of Foreigners; nay, endured to be inſulted over by ſome of my Neighbours, out of a fear to diſturb it. My Birth, my Humour, my Profeſſion, the Rank I hold in the Church and the Empire, oblige me to entertain thoſe Sentiments, and to put them in practice to the utmoſt of my Power. But if the War depends not on me, but upon you; and if other Princes and Chriſtian States have Differences, which we cannot hinder, it is requiſite at leaſt, that we make it our buſineſs to maintain within the Empire that Union which will not be found elſewhere; to prevent its being unhappily involved in the Wars, wherein it has nothing common, and wiſely to elude all the Artifices, which ſome would caſt as a miſt over it, in Foreign Diſputes. 'Tis in that Work, you ought to be moſt advantageouſly ſerviceable, and may acquire great Repute and Glory. No man doubts, but that, conſidering the Place you are in, many Prayers and Proffers are made to you, to engage you to confound things, and bring in *Germany* to be concerned in the Quarrels of *Holland*, and to run the ſame fortune, while they find you ſlighting all ſorts of Intereſts, Advantages, and Private Paſſions, and wholly employing your Endeavours, as well to induce the High and Mighty the *States-General*, to reſtore what belongs to me and the other Princes of the Empire, as to maintain the quiet of *Germany*, to keep it at a diſtance, as it is, from the fire which ſeems ready to break forth elſewhere, and above all, to take away the occaſions of diſtruſt and animoſity, among the chiefeſt and moſt powerful Princes of *Chriſtendom*, and to reconcile their Intereſts and Inclinations. All Lovers of juſt Actions will give you the Elogies which you muſt have well deſerved, and acknowledge the important ſervice you will do the Emperour and the Empire, in a Conjuncture ſo nice and tickliſh as this is. That is the beſt way to bring the Intereſt and preſſing Deſire, you tell me of, to take its due effect, and which I know his Imperial Majeſty hath, to maintain the Peace of the Empire, and the only way to Re-eſtabliſh and augment the Commerce thereof more than ever. And to effect that, I ſhall heartily uſe the utmoſt of my Endeavours and Abilities, not only out of a

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Conſideration of being my ſelf concerned therein, as I am in a much higher degree than all thoſe who might exhort me to do my Duty as to that point, but alſo to aſſure his Imperial Majeſty of the gratitude I have, for h s intereſſing himſelf in whatever concerns me, and the acknowledgments I make of my being inviolably devoted to his ſervice. Amongſt ſo many Reports which are ſcattered abroad of an approaching War, there ſhall not any Prince have a greater Zeal, than I have, to join with him, for the Defence of his Territories if they chance to be invaded; and I ſhall readily hazard my own for the Empire, when it ſhall ſtand in need of it. But that excepted, I ſhall not have any thought or reflection more preſſing upon me, than that of preſerving my Country as I ought; of ſecuring it againſt thoſe who would attaque it; of keeping up the Alliances and Amities which may put me into a condition of not fearing the numerous Forces that are lodg'd upon my Frontiers; and that of my Neighbours pretending to impoſe a Law upon me, ſo as to declare they will not be ſatisfied that I ſtand Neuter, and to ſeem deſirous to force me, as if I were their Vaſſal, to ſide with them againſt their Enemies, and to prefer their ſafety before that of my own Subjects. I am inclined to believe, that you your ſelves will allow all theſe Sentiments to be very rational; and though you may not have for me the Inclination, whereof you would have me aſſured, yet I conceive you cannot forbear approving them with all other perſons, ſince I cannot imagine, that my very Enemies, if I had any, could find any thing to object againſt them. I have in all this, and indeed in all things elſe, a great confidence in your judgment and affection; and returning you my Thanks for the good Wiſhes you make for me at the entrance of this New Year, it ſhall be my deſire to meet with occaſions therein to aſſure you of my being, &c.

From our City of Bonne,
January 2. 1672.

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